



Members of the Yangtan brigade, who are part of a "network for promoting advanced technique and experience", examining saunder eggs

## Raising Cotton Output in South

Peasants know the importance of field management in producing big harvests





A view of the Yangtan brigade, an advanced unit which has been producing high yields of cotton in south Shansi consistently for several years

Hao Tzu-ying (second, left), head of Yuncheng County, discussing production problems in the cotton field with a member (third, left) of the Yuncheng Cotton Research Institute and commune members

# Shansi

Article and photographs  
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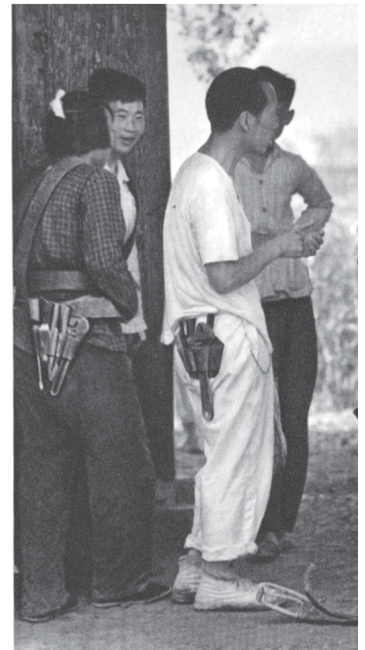


At a model workers celebration in Yangtan Brigade. In the first half of this year, 60 per cent of the brigade members were classed as good-in-five members (good in political ideology, labour, study, protecting the interests of the collective and practising economy at home)

Repairing farm tools for the commune in a mobile repair shop sent by the county agricultural machinery station



A group of electricians made up of members from the Sikaoyu brigade



**L**EAVING Taiyuan, capital of Shansi Province, and travelling south, one enters the Linfen-Yuncheng Basin. Through the train window row after row of cotton seedlings can be seen growing sturdily in seemingly endless fields. This part of south Shansi is one of north China's main cotton-growing areas. This year, in 29 counties there, a total of 3,000,000 *mu* were planted to cotton, and 100,000,000 cotton seedlings were set out in small scattered plots.

This spring, just after the planting season, it rained for almost half a month. Seeds, sprouts and seedlings rotted in the fields over wide areas and ridges collapsed. Almost one million people struggled with might and main to prevent harm to the crop. They went through the fields three times examining the seedlings and replacing the damaged ones. In this way they gained their first victory—a good start.

It is the common desire of all the peasants in south Shansi to do everything they possibly can to obtain a big cotton harvest. Since the setting up of people's communes, they have been waging bold and determined struggles against nature for more cotton. In many communes in this area, the members all agree that a bumper harvest of a brigade can not really be considered a bumper harvest unless it is gained by scores or hundreds of brigades.

Accordingly, some advanced brigades set aside part of the chemical fertilizer given them by the state as a reward and handed it over to less advanced ones. In some places, the peasants who had more advanced technical knowledge did their best to pass it on to others.

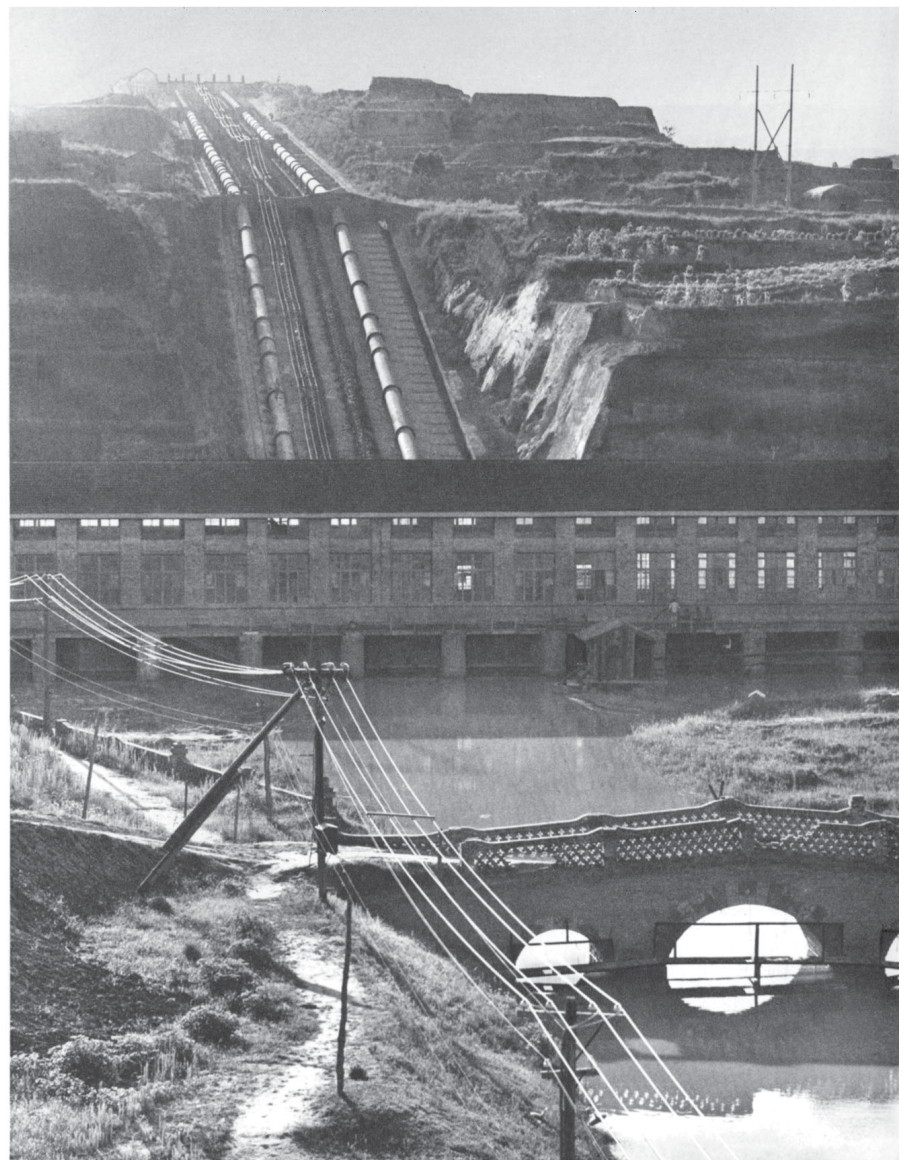
Among the many brigades in the area, the Yangtan and Hsiayuan brigades have all along been outstanding in helping each other and learning from each other. For many years the Yangtan brigade has held the honoured title of advanced cotton planting unit in south Shansi. At planting season, the Hsiayuan brigade sent some members to the Yangtan

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A field laboratory built near the demonstration field this year by the Yuncheng Cotton Research Institute

A large new pumping-station for irrigation, using electric power





The 300,000 *mu* cotton field of Linchi County in the southwest Shansi cotton growing area

to learn from them. The Yangtan brigade treated them hospitably, helped them and sent eight cotton planting experts with them when they went back. On discovering that the Hsiayuan brigade had too few draught animals and therefore the sowing there was slow, they had four strong mules sent over.

All counties, communes, brigades and production teams in the south Shansi cotton growing areas cultivate large cotton demonstration fields. These are actually further developments of the experimental fields and high-yielding fields. The advanced production experiences of the peasants and the results of scientific research are comprehensively applied in these fields in conformity with the characteristics of the particular locality, the size of the field varying from scores of *mu* to thousands of *mu*. In Wensi, Hungtung and Linfen Counties fields of this kind are planted according to strict specifications which are the same for all and represent the

achievements of scientific experiments carried out by the leading cadres of the county, the scientific and technical personnel and the commune members. Though the demonstration fields were set up not long ago, they have already become the main way for promoting high yields. The advanced areas continually expand, while the less advanced areas shrink. The broad masses of peasants have seen with their own eyes what has been done on them. They realize that it can be studied and mastered by everyone. Thus their determination to strive for high yields has been strengthened, as well as their confidence that they can succeed. In the demonstration fields, the leading cadres not only take part in production and supervise it, but they also discover and solve problems in time. Thus, through their experience they can direct production in larger areas. The demonstration field is a base for comprehensive experiments and also a medium through which scientific and technical

personnel sum up the experiences of the masses.

In recent years, the state has given a great deal of support to the basic construction of fields in the south Shansi cotton growing area. Large irrigation pumping stations, agricultural machinery stations and transmission installations have been built with state funds. In some counties, 60 per cent of the people's communes have electric power equipment. Many others are now in the process of putting up wiring or setting up pumping stations. Because of the rapid development of basic construction in the cotton fields, the fight against natural calamities is more successful than ever before.

The condition of the cotton fields in the area as a whole is excellent. Success has not turned the heads of the peasants, who are now improving field management and striving by all means within their power to attain high yields of cotton over large areas.



Wu Chi-chang, an outstanding cotton expert known throughout the country, describing his experiences in cotton growing to a young commune member

Peasants from neighbouring counties visit the Yangtan brigade to exchange experiences and learn from them

